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WINSTON LORD FOR DR. KISSINGER

'VIETNAMIZATION. . . HAS BEEN COMPLETED'

FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY MELVIN R. LAIRD'S "FINAL REPORT TO THE
CONGRESS," DELIVERED TO THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE,
JAN. 8.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

VIETNAMIZATION - THE FIRST CRUCIAL STEP IN IMPLEMENTING THE
NIXON DOCTRINE - TODAY IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED. AS A CONSE-
QUENCE OF THE SUCCESS OF THE MILITARY ASPECTS OF VIETNAMIZATION,
THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TODAY, IN MY VIEW, ARE FULLY
CAPABLE OF PROVIDING FOR THEIR OWN IN-COUNTRY SECURITY
AGAINST THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. VIETNAMIZATION HAS SIGNIFICANTLY
ENHANCED THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION, BUT SHOULD
NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, VIETNAMIZATION MAKES POSSIBLE THE COMPLETE
TERMINATION OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR, CONTINGENT
ALWAYS ON THE SAFE RETURN OF AMERICAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR AND AN
ACCOUNTING FOR THOSE MISSING-IN-ACTION THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA...

FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT, THE VIETNAMIZATION PROGRAM HAS BEEN
COMPLETED. SOME AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN IN VIETNAM,
IN KEEPING WITH THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S PLEDGE THAT ALL OUR
FORCES WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN UNTIL ALL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN
RELEASED AND OUR MISSING-IN-ACTION ACCOUNTED FOR.

BUT, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT THIS COMMITTEE TO UNDERSTAND THAT
THE CONTINUING UNITED STATES MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIETNAM
IS NOT BEING MAINTAINED BECAUSE OF A LACK OF CAPABILITY ON THE
PART OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE.

VIETNAMIZATION HAS CHANGED THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE FOUND FOUR
YEARS AGO. IT HAS ENABLED US TO BRING OUR MILITARY FORCES OUT
OF VIETNAM, WHILE LEAVING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WITH THE CAP-
ABILITY FOR THEIR IN-COUNTRY SECURITY. THIS IS THE MOST ANY ALLY
COULD REASONABLY EXPECT, FOR NO NATION CAN PROVIDE TO ANOTHER
THE WILL AND DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE.